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File
Suspense
12 Mar

Assistant Director, O/RR

8 March 1951

Assistant Executive, OAD/RR

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Foreign Names Staff Work for the Board on Geographic Names

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1. [redacted] idea of an O/RR position is that we may get stuck with this foreign names work, or else see it die a lingering death with CIA paying the hospital bill.

2. Immediate action: Suggest no reply to Interior at this time, only that Deputy for Administration (Advisor for Management, General Counsel, Comptroller, and Director of Personnel) be furnished all of this correspondence -- and this memo -- for their information pending [redacted] further investigation.

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3. Is this an intelligence function? Questionable, as this is a government-wide service with both intelligence and non-intelligence aspects.

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4. [redacted] states that the Library of Congress is not carrying out work in this field.

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5. [redacted] fears the ultimate death of this activity, despite the yearly NIS contribution (\$315,000 for FY 1951), unless CIA takes over.

6. However, he recommends that before doing this it be approved by the IAC to ensure their cooperation.

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7. [redacted] has an interest in the uninterrupted functioning of the foreign names section of the Board.

8. Approximately 90 people are now involved. Space requirements are equivalent to a CIA "M" Building wing. Guthe states that Interior may force them from present space. Personnel are generally cleared for NIS work through SECRET. [redacted] feels that 90 people represents a maximum, and that this number may be reduced by using this activity as a coordinating facility for the research carried out elsewhere in the Government.

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Assistant Executive
Office of Research and Reports

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